(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV):(a) Yes Sir.

(b) Notification for the commencement of futures trading in (i) rapeseed/ mustardseed, (ii) groundnut, (iii) sunflower, (iv) ricebran, (v) cottonseed, (vi) coconut, (vii) sesamum and (viii) safflower and their oils and oilcakes has since been issued on 12.4.1999. Trading in these commodities would be undertaken by the recognised Commodity Exchanges who will be required to establish the necessary infrastructure for the purpose. Trading in all these commodities may take about two years to stabilize.

Place for AIDS Patents in City Hospitals

2847. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is still no place for AIDS patients in the city hospitals; and

(b) the measures proposed to ensure that they are not treated like untouchables?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTERY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) All government hospitals have been directed to ensure that the patients including those infected with HIV/AIDS receive proper care without any discrimination. In order to promote a health caring attitude, training is being imparted to doctors and para medical staff in the public and private sectors. Further hospitals have been asked to take steps to follow the prescribed bio-safety measures and other precautions aimed at protecting hospital workers from getting exposed to infection.

Doctor-Population Ratio in the North-East

2848. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the doctor-population ratio in the North-eastern part of India;

(b) the national figures of doctor-population ratio;

(c) whether super speciality health care system is available in the North-East; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to take immediate steps to make the North-Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences fully functional; if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALIA): (a) Zone-wise data is not maintained.

(b) The doctor population ratio for allopathic doctors is about 1:2250. Taking into account the number of qualified practitioners in Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy, the said ratio would 1 : 950.

(c) The North Eastern Council is supporting the development of Super-specialtiy facilities in the three medical colleges of Assam. The NEC and North Eastern States are also funding the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal.

(d) The OPD Clinic with the facility for treatment in the super-speciality of Cardiology and Gastro-entrology commenced at the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong on 20th August, 1998. For Phase II and III of the project, a concept Plan has been drawn up.